

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-12 were examined. Claims 1-4 and 8-10 are rejected. In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant rewrites all of the claims and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the aforementioned amendments and the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

Examiner objects to Claims 5-7, 11 and 12 under 37 CFR 1.75(a) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim must not depend upon another multiple dependent claim either directly or indirectly. In response, Applicant amends these claims to correct this issue.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C § 102(b)

A. Examiner rejects Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 3,327,404 issued to Ganier ("Ganier"). To anticipate a claim, Examiner must show that a single reference teaches each of the elements of that claim.

Ganier teaches a drying cabinet for drying wigs with two fans (one at the top and one at the bottom) to remove moisture on the wigs. As shown in Figure 4, Ganier also teaches a timer and a thermostat that is installed on top of the drying cabinet for controlling the desired temperature and the time it requires to dry the wigs. However, the air flow coming from the bottom fan of Ganier does not generate an air flow in a region of a circuit element because the purpose of Ganier is for drying wigs. The closest circuit element in Ganier appears to be the timer. Nevertheless, the timer in Ganier is not an object meant to be cooled because it functions as a timing device to control the time needed to operate the fan.

Moreover, Claim 1 (rewritten as Claim 13) recites "at least one circuit element **coupled to the switch cabinet.**" Hence, even if assuming a person of ordinary skill in the art would have placed an item other than a wig into the drying cabinet as described in Ganier to prevent water deposition, it would not have been obvious to couple the circuit element to the switch cabinet

instead of placing an item inside the switch cabinet. Thus, Ganier fails to teach every element of Claim 13. Consequently, Applicant believes that Claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

In regard to Claim 14 (analogous to previous Claim 2), this claim depends from Claim 13 (analogous to Claim 1) and incorporates the limitations thereof. For the reasons stated above, Ganier fails to teach every element of Claim 14. Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

B. Examiner rejects Claims 8-10 (rewritten as Claims 23-25) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,207,046 issued to Yamashita et al ("Yamashita").

Yamashita teaches a drinking water dispenser to supply drinking water from a detachable water container. The drinking water dispenser includes a hot water tank, a chilled water tank, a supply pipe and a sterilization system (*see* Abstract of Yamashita). Specifically, Yamashita teaches an electric equipment box that contains "an electric circuit for returning the circulating solenoid valve 10 and the circulating pump 9 into an original state by turning off all of them when a time period necessary for executing the heat sterilization has elapsed" (Yamashita, col.10, lines 1-6). In addition, Yamashita discloses a hot water drain valve and a cold water drain valve for draining hot or cold water in the water tank, respectively (Yamashita, col. 4, lines 17-20).

However, Yamashita does not teach an element of Claim 23 that recites "generating an airflow in the internal space of the switch cabinet to counteract a deposition of condensation water onto the at least one circuit element." After careful review, Applicant has been unable to discern any part of Yamashita that teaches generating airflow to counteract a deposition of condensation water on circuit element. Examiner equates the electrical equipment box with the circuit element. However, an equipment box is not a circuit, rather it may contain them. The equipment box prevents any airflow over the circuits inside. As a result, Yamashita does not teach this element of Claim 23.

Moreover, the drain valve employed in Yamashita is used for draining hot water in the hot water tank (Yamashita, column 4, lines 17-18) instead of being used to “counteract a deposition of condensation water onto the at least one circuit element.” Hence, Yamashita fails to teach every element of Claim 23. Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

In regard to Claims 24 and 25 (analogous to previous Claims 9 and 10), these claims depend from Claim 23 and incorporate the limitations thereof. For the reasons stated above, Yamashita also fails to teach each and every element of Claims 24 and 25. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claims 24 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

III. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Examiner rejects Claims 15 and 16 (analogous to previous Claims 3 and 4) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganier in view of Yamashita. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the following criteria must be met: (1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or combine the reference teachings; (2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and (3) the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations (*see* MPEP § 2142).

In regard to Claims 15 and 16, these claims depend from Claim 13 and incorporate the limitations thereof. For the reasons set forth above for Claim 13, Ganier also fails to teach or suggest each and every element of Claims 15 and 16. Furthermore, Yamashita does not cure the deficiency of Ganier. For the reasons set forth above, Yamashita does not teach “a drying arrangement to prevent water deposition onto the at least one circuit element, the drying arrangement including an air flow generating device to generate an air flow in a region of the at least one circuit element.” Thus, Ganier in view of Yamashita fails to teach or suggest each and every element of Claims 15 and 16. Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claims 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 13-28 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 27, 2006

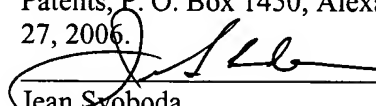
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 27, 2006.


Jean Svoboda